

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 THESSA 00253 131230Z

65C

ACTION PER-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 W
----- 114429

R 131110Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2633

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0253

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR M/EEO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: APER, CGEN

SUBJECT: CONSULAR TITLES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARIES

REF: (A) THESSALONIKI 222 (B) STATE 191598

1. MY PROPOSAL WAS NOT INTENDED TO "DEROGATE" THE CONSULAR FUNCTION OR TO SUGGEST THAT CONSULAR TITLES BE GRANTED "CASUALLY". THE INTENTION WAS RATHER TO SOLVE A PRACTICAL PROBLEM WITH A PRACTICAL SOLUTION PARTICULARLY FOR SMALL CONSTITUENT POSTS SUCH AS THESSALONIKI. WERE SUCH A PROPOSAL APPROVED, I WOULD OF COURSE EXPECT THAT THE SECRETARY IN QUESTION, BE IT THE INCUMBENT OR HER SUCCESSOR, WOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF BEING ASSIGNED TO CONSULAR TRAINING.

2. BE THAT AS IT MAY, DEPARTMENT'S POSITION DOES NOT, IT SEEMS TO ME, COME TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEM OF POSTS WITH ONLY ONE CONSULAR OFFICER WHOSE ABSENCE FOR WHATEVER REASON CAN, IN THE ABSENCE OF TDY ASSISTANCE, CREATE RATHER DIFFICULT OPERATING CONDITIONS. ENTIRE PURPOSE OF MY MESSAGE WAS TO SUGGEST AN ADDITIONAL WAY OF DEALING LOCALLY WITH UNEXPECTED CONTINGENCIES AND NOT TO ALTER BASIC STRUCTURE OF OUR PROFESSIONAL CONSULAR CORPS, AS DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE SEEMS TO IMPLY.

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3. FINALLY, HOW DOES DEPARTMENT' S REPLY SQUARE
WITH EFFORTS TO ENHANCE USEFULNESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF FOREIGN SERVICE SECRETARIES, MANY OF WHOM HAVE
LONG (AND FREQUENTLY OFFICER LEVEL) EXPERIENCE IN
OTHER IMPORTANT FUNCTIONAL AREAS SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS,
PERSONNEL, PROTOCOL, REPORTING, ETCETERA?
NEGROPONTE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THESSA00253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: THESSALONIKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760853/aaaabuef.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PER
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 FEB 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR TITLES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE
TAGS: APER, CGEN
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006